

# Portable Fuel Container Public Workshop

California Air Resources Board  
Monitoring and Laboratory Division



*Presented on March 17, 2004  
by Joseph Fischer*

# Email Notify and Manufacturer Contacts



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## Portable Fuel Containers

*This page updated November 10, 2003*

The ARB Portable Fuel Container regulations are an important concept in our efforts to improve air quality in California. Portable Fuel Containers (gas cans, utility jugs, etc.) are used to fill equipment such as vehicles, lawn mowers and watercraft. The goal of this program is to ensure that spillage and permeation losses are minimized or eliminated. Because of their large numbers, these containers have the potential to create a substantial amount of hydrocarbon emissions. These types of emissions create ozone-forming smog which may jeopardize public health.

**Notice of Public Meeting to Consider Modifications to Existing Regulations Scheduled for November 19, 2003 in Sacramento.**  
[Word \(46K\)](#) or [PDF Format - \(85K\)](#) **NEW!**

**October 2, 2003 Stakeholders Informational Letter** [Word \(46K\)](#) or [PDF Format - \(85K\)](#) **NEW!**



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*A department of the California Environmental Protection Agency*



# Presentation Agenda

- Review proposed changes & amendments for December 2004 Board Hearing.
- Regulation Amendments
- Certification Procedure 501
- Permeation Test Method for ASTM Adoption
- Spill-proof Spouts:
  - ARB and Manufacturer findings
  - Modifications to Test Procedures
  - Upcoming workshop for Spill-Proof spouts.

# Review

- Amend regulation to improve PFC definitions.
- Incorporate a Certification Program to improve compliance.
- Improve test methods to simulate real world usage.
- Provide spill-proof spouts capable of filling a greater variety of equipment and vehicles.
- Improve customer acceptance.



# Regulation Amendments

- **Definitions**
  - Item 11, editorial language to refine definition
- **Standards**
  - New language to address CP-501 requirements.
  - Removal of language, placed into CP-501.
- **Exemptions**
  - Innovative product definitions moved to CP-501.
  - Additional administrative references
- **Administrative Requirements**
  - Clarifications to references / new references
  - Removal of language to be addressed by CP-501

# Certification Procedure 501

- New document directing manufacturers how to test and certify PFC's in California.
- Language moved from Regulation to CP.
- Introduces concept of certifying spouts for refueling on-road motor vehicles, etc.
- Discussions on CP-501 starting from beginning.



# CP-501 (continued)

- General Information, Performance Standards
- Requirements for Certification
- Applicant Requirements
- Submitting an Application
- Application Review & Acceptance
- Engineering Review, Alternate Test Methods, Certification of Components
- Documentation of Certification (Executive Order)
- Innovative Products

# Permeation Test Method

- Applicability, Principal & Summary, Biases
- Sensitivity and Range, Equipment
- Durability Demonstration
- Precondition, Sealing, Trip Blank
- Alternate Test Methods



# Spill-Proof Spouts



## Current Issues:

- Inability to refill motor vehicles & some types of equipment.
- Questionable customer acceptance.
- Low Flow PFC's, without funnels at service stations.
- Continued issues with overfilling & fill height.

# Spill-Proof Spouts

## ARB and Manufacturer Studies

- ARB testing performed in field.
- ARB to conduct two marketplace studies using telephone questionnaires (March-April).

### Manufacturer Findings

- Test Data must be submitted in writing in order to be used for regulation development.
- Manufacturer test reports submitted



# ARB In-House Study

- Performance and Consumer Evaluations.
- ARB to announce findings at next workshop.



# Possible Solutions

## Test Method Amendments

- ARB to investigate modifying all spill-proof spout test methods.
- Use of funnels. Modify requirements to allow for new, different types of funnels?
- Elimination of fill height requirement.
- Modify pressure test requirements to maintain pressure integrity and ease insertion force.
- Multiple Test Fixtures.
- ARB eliminate Consumer Acceptance criteria versus adopted more standards and specifications.



# Manufacture Studies

- Manufacturers wishing to present in-house marketplace studies or information?

(we can accommodate)

# Next PFC Workshop

- Aimed primarily at spill-proof spouts.
- Tentatively scheduled for late April or early May 2004.
- ARB requesting manufacturers to submit findings, input or suggestions prior to workshop.



# Contact Information

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